

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /087 W

-----006927 101011Z /21

R 100948Z DEC 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2547

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0677

MBFR NEOGITATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: DEC 9 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 156TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON DECEMBER 9, WHICH WAS CHAIRED BY US REP, CZECHOSLOVAK REP (MEISNER) DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. HIS PRESENTATION, WHICH INCLUDED REFERENCES TO THE EAST'S FREEZE AND OCTOBER 25 DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSALS, FOCUSSED ON THE NECESSITY TO INCLUDE AIR FORCES IN REDUCTIONS AND THE DEFICIENCIES IN THIS REGARD OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. DESPITE ARTIFICIAL WESTERN ATTEMPTS TO FOCUS
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NARROWLY ON GROUND FORCES, THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE REDUCTION OF ALL FORCE ELEMENTS - GROUND, AIR AND NUCLEAR.

2. THE WEST TRIES TO MINIMIZE THE VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF AIR FORCES ALTHOUGH NUMEROUS AUTHORITIES HAVE RECOGNIZED THEM AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF

MILITARY STRENGTH.

3. AIR FORCES, WHICH ARE MAINTAINED AT A HIGH DEGREE OF READINESS AND ARE REMARKABLY MOBILE, CAN INFLICT SUDDEN BLOWS USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEEP IN AN ENEMY'S TERRITORY.

4. AIR FORCES HAVE MODERN EQUIPMENT WHICH ENABLES THEM TO OPERATE UNDER ALL CONDITIONS IN A VARIETY OF ROLES AND ARE AT LEAST EQUAL TO OTHER PARTS OF THE MILITARY POTENTIAL OF STATES.

5. EASTERN PROPOSALS, INCLUDING THE PROPOSAL NOT TO INCREASE THE MANPOWER OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, HAVE ALL DEALT WITH AIR FORCES AS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS SINCE ONLY A REDUCTION OF ALL TYPES OF ARMED FORCES CAN ESTABLISH A MORE STABLE SITUATION IN EUROPE.

6. BOTH THE MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT OF AIR FORCES MUST BE REDUCED AND THESE REDUCTIONS MUST TAKE PLACE ON A MUTUAL, EQUITABLE BASIS BY WHOLE UNITS WITH EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT REDUCING ON AN EQUAL PERCENTAGE BASIS.

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7. THE PROVISION OF THE FEBRUARY 1976 EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT WITHDRAWN AIR FORCES BE DISBANDED WOULD LIMIT AIR FORCE CAPABILITIES AND RESPOND TO THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE FLANK STATES.

8. THE OFFICIAL DATA OCF BOTH SIDES CONFIRM THAT APPROXIMATE EQUALITY IN AIR FORCE MANPOWER EVISTS, A FACT WHICH REQUIRES EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS IF THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY IS TO BE PRESERVED.

9. THE EAST'S COMPROMISE DATA PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 25, BASED ON THE EXACT CATEGORIZATION OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF FORCES, WOULD PREVENT A SLOWING OF THE TEMPO IN THE DATA DISCUSSION.

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10. THE WEST HAS SOUGHT ONLY THE ASYMMETRICAL
REDUCTION OF GROUND FORCES WHICH IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE
EAST AS IT WOULD LEAD TO A VIOLATION OF THE EXISTING
FORCE BALANCE TO THE BENEFIT OF NATO.

11. WESTERN ARGUMENTS THAT AIR FORCES CAN BE
QUICKLY RETURNED TO THE AREA ARE UNFOUNDED SINCE THE
WITHDRAWAL AND DISBANDMENT OF COMBAT UNITS TOGETHER
WITH SUPPLY AND SERVICE UNITS WOULD PRECLUDE RAPID
RETURN TO THE AREA, SOMETHING WHICH WOULD IN ANY
EVENT VIOLATE AN AGREEMENT.

12. THE ARGUMENTS THAT THE WEST SHOULD BE
COMPENSATED BECAUSE OF GEOGRAPHY ARE WITHOUT
FOUNDATION SINCE US AIR FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA
CAN REACH SOVIET TERRITORY AND U.S. AIR FORCES IN THE
UK CAN REACH THE REDUCTION AREA WHILE SOVIET FORCES
IN THE REDUCTION AREA CANNOT REACH US TERRITORY.

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13. WHILE THE WEST'S PROPOSALS OF DECEMBER 1975
SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO INCLUDE AIR FORCES IN
REDUCTIONS, THAT OFFER IS A ONE TIME OFFER CONCERNING ONLY
US FORCES AND IS TIED TO THE EAST'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE
WHOLE WESTERN REDUCTION PROGRAM.

14. THE AIR FORCES OF OTHER WESTERN PARTICIPANTS

WOULD NOT BE REDUCED AND, UNDER COLLECTIVE CEILINGS,
SUCH FORCES COULD EVEN INCREASE.

15. THE WEST'S REAL MOTIVES IN REJECTING AIR FORCE
REDUCTIONS STEM FROM ITS DESIRE TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE
AIR FORCES AND TO COMPENSATE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF
GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS, THEREBY MAKING POSSIBLE A
CONTINUATION OF THE ARMS RACE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE
STABLE RELATIONSHIP OF ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA.

16. WESTERN DOCTRINE CONSIDERS AIR FORCES
THE BASIC MEANS FOR ESCALATION TO NUCLEAR WARFARE.

17. IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY SUPPLEMENT
POLITICAL DETENTE WITH MILITARY DETENTE, BOTH AIR AND
GROUND FORCES MUST BE REDUCED SINCE REDUCTIONS OF
AIR FORCES ARE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE A REAL DIMINUTION
IN THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN THE AREA.

18. THEREFORE, THE WEST SHOULD REEXAMINE ITS
APPROACH TO AIR FORCE REDUCTIONS SO THAT PARTICIPANTS
CAN WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE
ISSUES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. RESOR

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